

LOW PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA CONTROL PLAN

Prepared by the Office of the State Veterinarian

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Division of Agriculture, 2004

SITUATION:

The State of Rhode Island aims to prevent the spread of Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI). If LPAI is found among commercial poultry in Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Division of Agriculture (DAG) will work as cooperatively as possible with all who are concerned to control and then eliminate disease in and around the farm.

OBJECTIVES OF DEM RESPONSE:

- 1) Control and eradicate Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) virus on a commercial poultry farm, including property, materials, and equipment that are associated with the farm and its operations.
- 2) Maintain quarantine and strict biosecurity during the depopulation and disinfection of the facility.
- 3) Provide established protocols, procedures and safeguards for animal welfare, environmental management, and public health.
- 4) Implement monitoring and surveillance plans in order to insure adequate disinfection of the premises prior to repopulation.

SUMMARY:

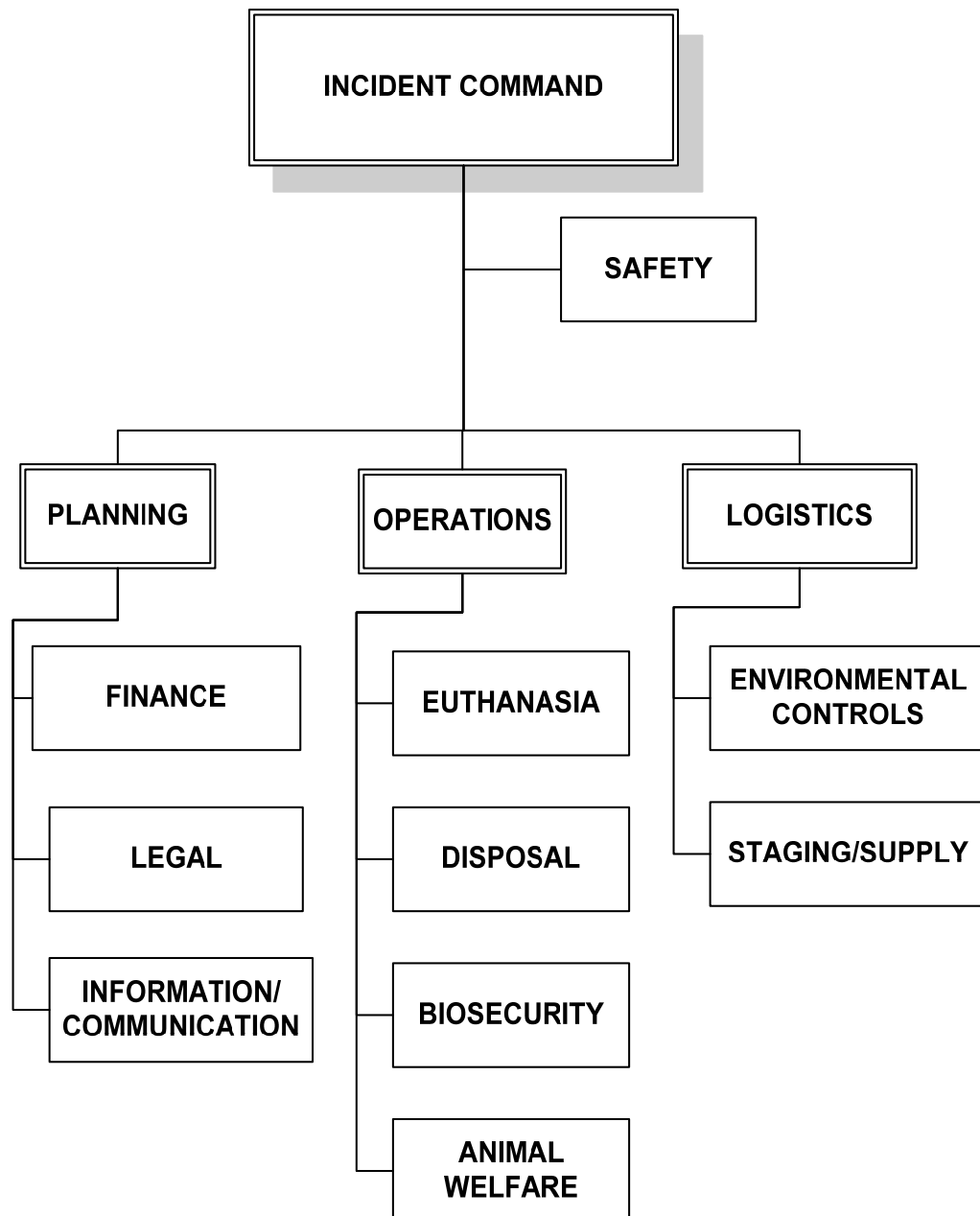
The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM), Division of Agriculture (DAG) will work cooperatively with the owners of AI-infected commercial poultry facilities, local government authorities, the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (APHIS-VS), and other agencies or divisions to provide the required equipment, materials and resources for humane euthanasia of the birds, proper carcass disposal, biosecurity, and disinfection of the facility. Fowl that are on farm property when AI is found will be euthanized with carbon dioxide using American Veterinary Medical Association approved methods and established USDA protocols. Carcasses will then be properly disposed of, preferably transported in biosecure containers to the landfill for deep burial. The poultry house and adjacent processing equipment as well as all related materials will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Manure will be removed and disposed of through an approved manure management plan, preferably through composting on-site. Upon disinfection of the facility, a testing plan will be initiated and the poultry house left empty for at least 30 days. Sentinel birds and environmental samples will be used to monitor for a disease prior to repopulation of the house.

PLAN COMPONENTS:

Incident Command
Biosecurity
Euthanasia
Carcass Disposal, Waste Management
Cleaning and Disinfection
Testing and Monitoring
Communications

Incident Command:

The Incident Command System (ICS) will be implemented. RIDEM will provide the Incident Commander, who will direct Planning, Operations and Logistics. The Planning Section will develop the Incident Action Plans and coordinate Finance, Legal, Communications and Information activities. The Operations Section will implement euthanasia, animal welfare, disposal and biosecurity/safety protocols according to Incident Action Plans that the Incident Commander approves. The Logistics Section will stage supplies and environment controls. Staffing will be provided by the appropriate personnel of the RIDEM, DAG, APHIS-VS, LREF and Contracted Vendors. See [ICS for LPAI Control](#), DEM ERP Section 6-9-AI-3



Biosecurity:

Biosecurity will require that all personnel, vehicles, equipment and materials be subject to strict cleaning and disinfection protocols. Complete personal and protective clothing and supplies will be provided for all responders moving on and off the premises. A Biosecurity/Safety Officer will be assigned to provide training, monitoring and supervision of all biosecurity and personal safety. All vehicles will be pressure washed and disinfected prior to leaving. A strict 200-yard restriction zone will be established, with biosecurity checkpoints. Staff will be brought in by van from a staging area, minimizing traffic on the site. Staff will be prohibited from visiting other farms or premises with birds for a minimum of 72 hours. See appended [Biosecurity Protocol](#) (DEM ERP Section 6-9-2).

Euthanasia:

Euthanasia and catching crews will be comprised of experienced staff and overseen by a Veterinary Officer. AVMA approved protocols will be used to provide for carbon dioxide euthanasia. Animal welfare will be monitored by a veterinarian and all safety by the Biosecurity/Safety Officer. Euthanized animals will be immediately disposed of. See appended [Euthanasia Protocol](#) (DEM ERP Section 6-9-4)

Carcass Disposal, Waste Management:

Carcasses will be contained in cadaver bags and placed into sealed, covered containers. All containers will be disinfected. The contracted container vendor will be escorted daily to the landfill for immediate deep burial bags. All vehicles and drivers will be provided biosecurity and documented. Insofar as possible, manure and any feed or bedding will be composted outside the poultry house per an approved manure management plan.

Cleaning and Disinfection:

The RIDEM will oversee the thorough cleaning and removal of all contaminated materials from the facility. Used equipment, cages and feeders that are removed will be disinfected prior to disposal at an approved facility. All organic material and debris will be physically removed from all floors, walls, fixtures, equipment, and related surfaces in the entire building and on the grounds. Pest control will be provided. All feed, bedding, and organic waste should be composted. After cleaning is completed, the RIDEM will provide an approved disinfectant for all contaminated surfaces and equipment. All environmental safeguards should be followed. The facility will be disinfected and then remain empty for at least 30 days. If there is the need for equipment installation after disinfection, the facility and new equipment will be disinfected again, prior to the introduction of new stock. See the appended [Disinfectants for FMD – For Field Use](#) (DEM ERP Section 6-9-FMD2) and [MSDS for Virkon](#).

Testing and Monitoring:

The DAG will provide ongoing surveillance in the facility. Environmental samples and sentinel birds can be used to screen for persistent infection. Surveillance in other commercial and backyard flocks will continue. The 200-yard Quarantine Zone and 2-mile Restricted Movement Zone around the property will be maintained until such time as the DAG demonstrates no infection persists.

Communications:

The ICS Planning Section will oversee Communications and Information Dissemination. Communication among staff, the field, the office and other agencies or divisions will be through Logistics. The Planning Section will coordinate all press releases, public relations, and stakeholders information distributions. Questions or concerns should be directed to the RI DEM Division of Agriculture, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.